

makes you free, you

Therefore if the Son



shall be free indeed.

VOICE OF FREEDOM

A MINISTRY OF
CEDAR VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH



PRISON MINISTRY GOOD-NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

God's Wisdom by Roger Montz

Grace and peace to all of you from our one and only Lord God Almighty whose grace is unending and available to all. Humankind introduced sin into God's perfect creation. **God cannot tolerate sin, but by God's wisdom, no one is outside of His grace.** Every sin you can possibly imagine, but one, has been and will be forgiven if you believe in Christ Jesus, if you accept that He died on Calvary's cross for your sins, and if you believe that He rose on the third day defeating satan's eternal death wish for you and right now sits on the right hand side of His Father God. According to scripture, I believe that the only sin that is eternally unforgivable is denying Jesus as God's Son and the power of His salvation. This denial is also blaspheming against the Holy Spirit (study Matthew 10:32-33, Mark 3:22-30, Luke 12:8-10 and the surrounding context). Yes, to all who believe Jesus and surrender their hearts to Him, all past, present and future sins have been forgiven. WHAT! All my future sins are forgiven? Does that mean I can sin all I want to and not worry about it? Absolutely NOT! Because of God's grace, love and forgiveness to us, those of us who accept Christ Jesus will want to do everything we can to resist the temptation to sin. Will it be hard to do? Yes, very hard. Can you or I do it? Yes, by God's grace and love through Jesus we all can fight the temptation to sin.

How can I not sin? It will be hard, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) As descendents of a fallen creation, we have a natural tendency to sin. Many times we want to sneak a look at all of our past sinful pleasures and desire them once again. In Jeremiah 17:9-10 the Lord God says, that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart and test the mind." In Romans 7:15-25 the Apostle Paul shared his struggle with doing things he knew he ought not to do. The last sentence in verse 25 sums up our natural desire, "So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." I am no better than Paul, and I struggle like he did. **Verse 25 sums up my life. When I catch myself struggling with a temptation to sin, I need to stop, look, and listen to wisdom from God. God's wisdom, God's word, is what I need in my times of struggle.**

There are accounts in scripture where Jesus told a person He healed to go and sin no more. In John 5:14 Jesus told the healed paralytic man, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." And in John 8:11, Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn

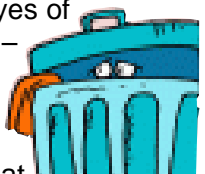
you; go and sin no more." Jesus made it clear that we are not to continue in our past sins/crimes. I believe that God wants us to look back on our lives to reflect about and understand that those past sins/crimes never did get us anywhere and never would. Yes, I do look back and I do see the times when I once thought my past sinful pleasures were worth dying for. Now I see them as absolutely worthless and destructive. **God's wisdom, from His word in Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, brought me to sanity and the desire never to want to return to my past sins and never to take a sneak peek at them.** God's wisdom came to me through the words of King Solomon, "all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor." "Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun."

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel [the good news of salvation] Mark 1: 14-15



Does verse 10 hit you right between the eyes like it did me? Before accepting Christ as my Savior, I envied rich people and saw how they lived with nice homes, new cars, cool tools, fancy meals and seemingly no cares. I envied their life style so much that I did whatever it took to have the same. Having nice things is not sinful, but greed can turn into sinful practices such as drug use, sexual addictions, and gaining money the easy way. Then a downhill spiral began and I could never get enough. My heart took delight in greed and what my eyes saw I took. But, the law caught up with me, and I think God had enough of me damaging other people's lives and my own life. The only reward I received was self-pleasure and loving myself more than anyone else. There was no real, true love for others in my heart. Reflect back over your past sins/crimes and see if you can find one ounce of love for others in them. If your heart is true and you look with the eyes of Jesus, you may see what I saw – lives of family and victims filled with pain, sorrow, anger and heartaches. I also saw my life trashed, living only for empty rewards and greed that never satisfied. I lived for a reward that I could never obtain, self-satisfaction. How about you?

In Ecclesiastes 2:11 God's wisdom cuts to the core of our hearts if we are honest with ourselves. **While I was living in and practicing sin, it was like I was simply grasping for air, and my hands and heart always came up empty.** Sexually abusing another never lead to a loving and lasting relationship. Drugs and alcohol never made problems go away the next morning. Riches never brought peace. Riches brought only dissatisfaction



and conflicts in my heart about how to obtain more riches and self-pleasures. Are you hearing God's wisdom speak to you as it did to me? Everything I did wrong in the past was vanity. Webster's New College Dictionary defines vanity as: any act or thing that is vain, futile, idle or worthless. There was no profit in any of my sins. When in prison, I asked myself the following questions: (1) What profit is there in sitting on your cell bunk? (2) What profit is there in knowing that family may be struggling to make ends meet? (3) What profit is there in realizing the pain and damage done to another's life? (4) Was the profit of vanity, living for self or greed, worth the price you are paying now?



When I asked myself these questions the answer became clear – there was absolutely no profit under the sun for all that I had done! God's wisdom helped me reflect on my past and understand the futility of my worthless, destructive labors. God's wisdom is powerful against any human, earthly desire for returning to selfish, sinful pleasures. God's wisdom is clear in my hearing, heart and mind, "Roger, go, and sin no more." Hear this clearly, I am not a saint! I have and I will fall short of the glory of God. I will stumble and fall. But because of God's wisdom in leading me to reflect back to see how useless or profitless my past was, I understand and will not desire a repeat of my past sins/crimes.

God's wisdom rings true in 1 John 2:15-17, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father [God] is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride [vanity] of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." **God's wisdom tells me of hope and the way to go and sin no more. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the**

temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it [not sin]." (1Corinthians 10:12-13) God's "way of escape" may be in the act of stopping to think, and then asking ourselves, "What profit is there in what I want to do? What profit is there in returning to prison?"

God's escape for us from temptation may very well be the still small voice of God's Holy Spirit speaking in our ears,

"You are off My path. You have let go of Jesus' hand. You are in the ditch of temptation and headed straight for the barbed-wire fence of sin, the fence which takes deliberate action on your part. You can choose to climb back out of the ditch onto the road of following Jesus and following God's will or you can choose to climb up the other side of the ditch and bust through the fence. Beware, once through the fence, you are sinning and separating your will from God's will. Once through the fence, you are reverting back to the three worldly sins – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life – all of which are outside of God's will."

God's wisdom is revealed in Hebrews 13:8-9, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.**" I leave you with these great and loving words from God's wisdom and love, "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work [labor] to do His will, working in you what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13: 20-21)

- Roger -



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3520 Ansborough Avenue

